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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 09767 01 OF 02 141705Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 STR-04 AGR-01 AID-05 CEA-01
COME-00 EB-07 EA-07 FRB-03 IO-13 NEA-10 OPIC-03
TRSE-00 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 /127 W
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R 141652Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5010
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USEEC
USOECD

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EEWT, SHUM, PGOV, UR, UK, US
SUBJECT: AN INDICATOR OF CONSERVATIVE PARTY POLICY ON
TRADE WITH THE USSR

1. THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY CENTRAL OFFICE HAS JUST RE-
LEASED A PAMPHLET ENTITLED "COPING WITH THE SOVIET UNION,"
WRITTEN BY TWO MPS, PETER BLAKER AND JULIAN CRITCHLEY.
AND RESEARCHER MATTHEW PARIS. IT CAN BE CONSIDERED A
STRONG INDICATION OF TORY POLICY WITHOUT BEING AN
OFFICIAL EXPRESSION OF THE PARTY'S POSITION. THE MAIN
POINTS ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW, NOT IN ANTICIPATION OF AN
EARLY CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT, BUT IN THE INTEREST OF GAIN-
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PAGE 02 LONDON 09767 01 OF 02 141705Z

ING A FULLER APPRECIATION OF CONSERVATIVE POLICIES. THE
DOCUMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH MRS. THATCHER'S PUBLIC STATE-
MENTS ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. TIMED TO APPEAR JUST BEFORE THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE,
THE AUTHORS' ESSENTIAL ARGUMENT IS THAT THE SOVIET UNION
GAINS DISPROPORTIONATELY MORE THAN THE WEST FROM EAST -

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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WEST TRADE AND SIMULTANEOUSLY ALLOCATES A FAR HIGHER PROPORTION OF RESOURCES TO ARMAMENTS WHICH ARE THEN DIRECTED AGAINST WESTERN INTERESTS. THEIR MAIN RECOMMENDATION IS THAT THE WEST MOVE TO RECONCILE ITS SOVIET TRADE POLICY WITH ITS POLITICAL AND DEFENSE INTERESTS SO THAT THE BALANCE OF BENEFITS SHIFTS TOWARD THE WEST.

3. THE OPENING QUOTATION FROM LENIN CAPTURES THE ESSENCE OF THE THREAT, PERHAPS MORE SUCCINCTLY THAN THE PAMPHLET ITSELF: "THEY WILL OPEN UP CREDITS FOR US' WHICH WILL SERVE US FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORTING COMMUNIST PARTIES IN THEIR COUNTRIES. THEY WILL SUPPLY US WITH THE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY WHICH WE LACK AND WILL RESTORE OUR MILITARY INDUSTRY, WHICH WE NEED FOR OUR FUTURE VICTORIOUS ATTACKS UPON OUR SUPPLIERS. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY WILL WORK HARD IN ORDER TO PREPARE THEIR OWN SUICIDE."

4. AFTER ANALYZING SOVIET INTENTIONS, WHICH THE AUTHORS CLEARLY SEE AS EXPANSIONIST AND OPPORTUNISTIC, THEY SUGGEST THE WEST ADOPT A NEW AND MORE ROBUST ATTITUDE TOWARD THE USSR WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC ELEMENTS:

(A) ENCOURAGE THE OECD COUNTRIES TO REGARD THEIR OVERSEAS TRADE POLICIES WITH THE SOVIET BLOC AS BEING AN INTEGRAL PART OF THEIR FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICIES;

(B) STRENGTHEN THE EXISTING TENUOUS 'GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT' ON MINIMUM TERMS OF OFFICIAL CREDIT EXTENDED TO THE USSR;

(C) STRENGTHEN THE JOINT APPLICATION OF THE COCOM

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PAGE 03 LONDON 09767 01 OF 02 141705Z

SYSTEM;

(D) DEVELOP AGREED GUIDELINES FOR THE SALE OF GRAIN AND MACHINERY, AND FOR CREDIT SUPPORT. IN SUCH A WAY AS

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PAGE 01 LONDON 09767 02 OF 02 141702Z
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R 141652Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5011
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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TO LIMIT THE DAMAGE THE RUSSIANS DO TO OUR OWN INTERESTS;
(E) ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES THAT WOULD DISCRIMINATE IN FAVOR OF SOME OF THE SMALLER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

5. THE AUTHORS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE MAIN PROBLEM IS TRYING TO COORDINATE SUCH A PROGRAM AMONG THE ECONOMICALLY COMPETITIVE NATIONS OF THE WEST.

6. THE AUTHORS ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE WEST SHOULD DO ALL IT CAN TO SUPPORT THE DISSIDENTS IN THE USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE. SPECIFICALLY:
(A) IT IS A GOOD END IN ITSELF TO SEEK A REDUCTION IN THE NATURAL AND SPIRITUAL REPRESSION THAT AFFECTS THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 LONDON 09767 02 OF 02 141702Z

LIVES OF SO MANY MILLIONS.
(B) BY GIVING SUPPORT TO THE DISSIDENTS, WE MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE SOVIETS TO BASE THEIR POLICIES UPON LIES, AND THUS LIMIT THEIR APPEAL TO THE THIRD WORLD.
(C) LIBERALIZATION WITHIN THE COMMUNIST BLOC IS IN REAL LONG-TERM INTEREST OF WESTERN SECURITY.

7. COPIES POUCHED TO EUR/SOV AND EUR/NE.

BREWSTER

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